

\$1.00 A YEAR



CHRISTIAN WOMAN

HER DEATHED CONFESSES THAT SHE HAD KILLED FOUR PERSONS.

Miss Catherine Miller, of Lebanon, Pa., was buried on June 21, having died at the age of 83 years.

The New York World says of her: "She was a member of the Lutheran church and regularly attended service."

She said, on her deathbed, that she had killed four persons, her mother, brother, sister and a baby.

She said she killed her mother, brother and sister because they were so sick that death was a blessing, and that she killed the baby by sticking a pin into its head because it was a disgrace. They all belonged to a respectable family.

She detailed the circumstances under which she killed the first three "with white powders," so that, in the memory of those who remember the circumstances, some think the woman murdered them, while in the opinion of others, she said what she did under the influence of dementia. Some persons remember that the infant had an injury on its head.

The physicians say the deaths were sudden but they think they were from natural causes.

REV. DR. SAVAGE TALKS AGAINST THE BIBLE

Dr. Minot Savage has again created a sensation. Replying to the attacks of the Bible League Dr. Savage says in part: "The men who are leading in the higher criticism of the Bible and who are now being assailed so bitterly by the American Bible League are representative scholars of the world, scientific thinkers, leaders, teachers who have given us a new universe, a new conception of God, a new idea concerning the origin and nature of man. They are not seeking to support or to undermine anything. They are seeking for the truth as the only sacred thing on earth."

I would like to have you consider what this book is about which all this controversy is about. It is really not one book but 65 small volumes. They are written during a period of nearly a thousand years in different countries by different people. The first book was written about 800 years before Christ. The first five books of the Bible were written between five and six hundred years before Christ.

The historical books tell us about the days of Judges then of Kings, the wars of Israel until the time of the captivity. Then the Book of Job purely anonymous and no one knows who wrote it. The Book of Psalms, the hymn book of the people of Israel and the books of the prophets. It would be more proper to call them prophecies for they made no effort to foretell anything but merely to tell people that if they followed certain lines of conduct certain things would happen.

No book was placed in the Bible by anything that claimed to be divine authority. No law concerning the biblical canon was ever issued by the church earlier than the sixteenth century and that changed nothing; it simply recognized what had already been a fact. These books drifted together and came to be bound as one by force of gravity by common consent and there are one or two books in the New Testament which scholars could miss without feeling any the poorer.

Nobody then is assaulting the Bible for the reason that the Bible as such has never made any claim. The Bible does not claim to be inspired; it does not claim to be infallible. No writer of one book is authorized to speak for the author of any other book. I suppose that God might have given us an infallible book if he had chosen and if he had given us such a book he would have made us sure that it was infallible.

God confined his revelations to one family and its descendants until about 2,000 years ago. Never a ray of light, never a whisper of guidance to any body else. Then he or some incomprehensible third person decided to give any rational idea—came down to earth lived a little over thirty years and went back to the throne of the universe. He did this to save men and he sent forth his spirit to teach and guide men. And yet not a third of the inhabitants have yet heard of him and the great majority of those who have heard don't believe it.

If I were compelled to believe that God holds me responsible for Adam's sin and that the immense majority of the world is doomed to everlasting torment and that only a selected few here and there are to enter into eternal felicity I might bow my head and

accept it but I could not rejoice in it. It is barbarous.

The men who try to make us accept such dogmas are the real infidels of the world and it is infidelity they are creating—infidelity a hundred times worse than that which they call by that name.

DR. WILSON'S ARTICLE ON "SPIRIT FRUIT"

While I greatly admire Dr. Wilson, as seems to be common among Bible readers, there are sometimes when I do not entirely sanction all he says, showing that "the Doctors will differ" even though the doctrine of one is pills and of the other theology, and in this connection, I want to say that a good little editorial in the Blade that wound up with a slam at "pluripotency"—with whom a man in my financial status would naturally be in sympathy—that had no signature to it and that, therefore, appeared to be mine, should have had the Doctor's "W" at the bottom of it.

He says something which I would not say personally, but which I am perfectly willing to have him say on his own name, or any part of his name. But in the article on "Spirit Fruit," he touched upon all the points concerning which I have hitherto differed, somewhat, with him and did not say a single word that did not express, exactly, my view of the question.

I regard him as being, in his sex, the greatest living exponent of infidel thought, and I know of no man who approaches him in the qualifications necessary to represent American Infidelity in the infidel Congress to be held at Rome.

As I am now "a moneyless man" I feel that if I had money I would just go to Dr. Wilson to go ahead with the Rome project and draw on me, ad libitum, for the desired funds, but I suppose if I were rich I would do as rich men do—though I was once in Rome and did not "do as Romans do" in all things.

Dr. Wilson will probably never make money out of his religious views as Ingersoll did, but will rather lose it as Paine did, but Wilson has already written his name high in the temple of America's immortals who have done good for their country.

We do not merely owe it to him but to ourselves and to the greatest of all causes that we should to see that Dr. Wilson has plenty of money subscribed for his Rome Congress book to send him there.

LETTERS ABOUT BOB BURDETTE

Camden, O., June 21, 1904.

Dear Brother Moore:

You are mistaken in your recent statement in the Blade that Bob Burdette turned preacher because he found the profession an easy "graft." Bob doesn't have to graft for a living as he is supported in "oriental luxury" by his present wife. Some years ago Bob, himself a penniless widower, married a widow in Pasadena, Calif., who is reputed to be worth several millions and who is prominent in church work.

Now, as Bob doesn't have to preach for a living as the only alternative of honest work, there is absolutely no harm in himself, unless his wife makes him do it.

Bob was already a preacher when he married, and it seems marriage hasn't reformed him. When he left Burlington, Ia., and went to Brooklyn, N. Y., (which city, by the way, has more churches and less religion than any other in the land), to take the position of staff humorist for the Eagle, he undertook to solve the problem by his own unaided efforts. The method he attempted was to put the saloon keepers out of business by drinking all their stock, but he found the job too great even for his extraordinary ability in that direction. His self-sacrificing devotion to the amusement cause affected his standing in the Eagle office, and he lost his job. It was then he went to preaching and lecturing on temperance.

For a few years he was pastor of a little Baptist church in North Station, a suburb of Philadelphia, and often went out to hear him preach. For, while Bob has the most wretched delivery of any public speaker I ever heard, and is about the "orniest" looking specimen of humanity I ever saw, his preaching, of his sermons, was unusually brilliant, being filled with sweet sentiment and the purest of poetic thought.

I was once disappointed when I went to hear Bob deliver a temperance lecture in a public hall. He arrived nearly an hour late, and was so drunk when he appeared that the committee in charge requested him to leave the platform and called the lecture off.

I have not heard that Bob has quit drinking since his marriage. His wife has taken him on a tour of Europe and otherwise treated him well. Yours truly, WALTER HURT.

NOISY DOWIE

Religious Mountebank and Counterfeit Takes Crack at the King and Applies Low Broad Epithet to Reporters.

New York, June 27.—On his first public appearance after his trip around the world, John Alexander Dowie attacked the character of King Edward, declared that he loved President Roosevelt and denounced reporters. He spoke at Carnegie Hall in the morning and afternoon making two addresses at each session.

After much bitter reference to King Edward, he said: "Defender of the Faith, indeed, Two weeks ago he went to the Duke of Devonshire to see some horses and get points about a coming race. The prophet is a mightier man than the King, and what the prophet said has made his throne totter."

I love Theodore Roosevelt, but if he does a great wrong, I shall not be afraid to tell him of it, and I believe he is too good a man to be afraid of being told of it.

The reporters he shouted:

But I say to each one of you fellows—Beware. You will each have to stand before God for your own sins. "Touch not mine anointed, and do not mine prophets." God declares, and He will protect His prophets. All liars have their portion of the lake which burneth fire and brimstone. You can laugh yourselves out. A Methodist minister once scoffed at me, and when I put out for disturbing the service, I told him to beware, and my words in his ears. Three days later his body was found in a pool of water. I can't tell how he got there, but I warned him. And I warn you, beware, God will stop your mouths. I brand you scoundrels and you does as a pack of unmitigated liars. Yet I pray God to bless you.

I have been asked when I will stop devil-talking. And until I have got licked I will keep on kicking little devils. I would like to save every one of the young fellows out to these literary scavengers' offices down town. And when I get to heaven, I shall be glad to go to hell to fight the devil there.

That's one time that I am for people. He is just as decent as Edward, and when thieves fall out honest men may get their dues."

That the first thing I ever heard of Dowie saying that had any merit in it.

I would be glad to have Ed. reply to him through the Blade.

HEATHEN JAPAN

Is Immensely Superior, Morally, to Christian America. According to Christian Missionary to Japan.

Pasadena, Cal., June 12, 1904.

Brothers Moore and Hughes:

I find enclosed \$1 for further ride in the life boat.

I want to say to you, Bro. Moore, that I never had six months schooling and have had to pick up what little I know by being a studious newspaper reader, with some books, through a life of 75 years of hard labor, but I am not sorry that I have lived.

Please have patience with me in my scribbling, and send me as many Blades as you can for enclosed stamps. I noticed in the last Blade that you were short on "copy," and so I send you a short criticism on the sayings of Dr. Butler who attended the General Methodist Episcopal Conference held in Los Angeles recently.

Rev. Dr. Butler has been a missionary in Japan for seventeen years. Japan, he said, although an Eastern country, is fighting for civilization. He said 5,000 had graduated from the Imperial University, in the last twenty-seven years, of which 400 studied science, 500 agriculture, 600 literature, 500 medicine, 1,200 engineering and 1,500 law.

You will notice that not one studied theology.

Dr. Butler says Japan has a thorough system of education. Prior to seventeen years ago I read an article giving the standing of the nations in regard to education, and that placed Japan as the best educated nation in the world; so he had nothing to do with their education.

He says Japan has a better postal system than we have and that they are better governed than we are, and

that life and property are sacred there. Are life and property sacred here or in any other Christian nation? The daily papers tell the answer.

The Doctor says that Japan, although a heathen nation is struggling for Christian freedom. Is it not strange that not one of these 5,000 students studied theology? How much of a struggle of this kind have they made when not one of 5,000 graduates has studied theology in twenty-seven years?

He says the people are happier there than they are here. According to the Bible Japan is a heathen nation—all except the Jews are heathen—but they don't seem to realize the fact.

The Doctor says there are 50,000 Christians in Japan. That may be true and many of them, perhaps, are half-breeds—half Japanese and half missionary.

Japan has 44,000,000 people. The Christians there are undoubtedly principally women and children and the ignorant classes. As not one graduate has studied theology, it is evident that the intelligent, educated classes there do not accept Christianity.

So, to be fair, I will reduce the 50,000 Christians to 44,000 and that will make just one Christian to each 1,000 of the population, but the Dr. says all this grand civilization is attributable to Christian influence.

Now suppose his statement is true, that one Christian in 1,000 Japanese has wrought this great reform that he explains the fact that every Russian being a Christian is compelled to be a member of the Greek church, that Russia, as he says, is living in the sixteenth century while Japan is living in the nineteenth century?

How is it that Christianity is so degrading to Russia and so elevating to Japan?

The Doctor after stating that Japan has a better government, better laws, better postal system and a happier and more contented people than we have, and that life and property are sacred there, then says: "Although she has but the shell of civilization the influence of Japan in China and Korea is something marvelous and is spreading every day, and I hardly need add that the nation's growth and advancement is due to Christian education and Christian civilization."

Further he says, "One of the results of our temperance work in the Philippines was the conversion of the natives, and he was consul of the island. He was a heavy drinker but joined the temperance cause."

He may have been a heavy drinker. Many may remember that in Manila, at the time Dewey took the city of 485,000 inhabitants, there was but one or two saloons in the city, but as soon as the wires flashed the news to this boasted Christian nation a shipload of intoxicants left Seattle for Manila and others followed in close pursuit, and there were 350 saloons there, and they kept increasing.

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WINCHESTER

FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS.

It's not sentiment—that makes the most successful shots shoot Winchester Factory Loaded Shells. It's the results they give. It's their entire reliability, evenness of pattern and uniform shooting. Winchester "Leader" shells, loaded with smokeless powder, are the best shells on the market. Winchester "Repeater" shells loaded with smokeless powder are cheap in price but not in quality. Winchester "New Rival" black powder shells are the favorite black powder load on the market on account of their shooting and reloading qualities. Try either of these brands and you'll be well pleased. They are THE SHELLS THE CHAMPIONS SHOOT.

toposition, are three things that Bro. Martin naturally thought would interest me.

The first one is a short piece used as an advertisement, in which Sam Jones "the great evangelist," testified to the wonderful powers of a fortune teller, who calls himself Professor Chesterfield.

It seems to me like a case of "telepathy." For a day or so, I have thought several times about Sam Jones.

It used to be that along about these Chautauque and camp meeting times the name of Sam Jones was very much in evidence, but now Sam seems to be as dead as a doornail.

I suppose this is partly because Sam has bled the suckers of a plenty of money to be able to retire upon the fruits of his labor, the labor being wrought his jaw, but principally because the people are under the influence of infidelity, becoming more civilized and enlightened on religious questions, and have become tired of the stale and wornby brand of chestnuts that Sam dealt out to them for intellectual and moral pabulum.

Poor old Talmage made a desperate struggle to keep his reputation alive as long as his body should live, but the rep died before the carcass did, and Talmage is now almost faded from the memory of men and his name, once in the columns of almost every newspaper, is now hardly seen in print.

Some day Sam Jones will drop out and people will hardly know that he was living up to that time.

The other piece in Bro. Mahoney's clipping was about a man of the somewhat familiar name of Charlie Moore, who was the victim of a practical joke by his son. There were some amusing coincidences between Charlie and the one who imitates this.

The third piece in Mahoney's clipping was about a Rev. Stanley B. Roberts, who had been to Palestine and Egypt, and seemed to confirm what I said about those places in Dog Fennel and seemed to indicate that the priest had read that book.

IMPROVED TRAIN SERVICE

Offered by the Henderson Route Between Louisville and St. Louis.

Commencing Sunday, June 26th, Kentucky's popular line, the Henderson Route, will inaugurate a safe and Fast Day service between Louisville and St. Louis in each direction, and will improve the time and equipment generally of all trains between these points.

Three daily trains will be operated in each direction on the following safe schedules between Louisville and St. Louis:

Leave Louisville 8:30 a. m., 9:00 p. m. and 7:00 a. m. Arrive St. Louis 6:16 p. m., 7:20 a. m. and 6:16 p. m. The equipment is brand new just from the shops, of the most modern vestibule pattern and is as fine as on any train operating in or out of Kentucky.

The 8:30 a. m. train, through without change of cars, will be composed of Pullman Observation Parlor Cars, Free Reclining Chair Cars, Dining Cars and high back seat passenger coaches.

The 9:00 p. m. train, through without change of cars, will consist of Pullman Sleeping Cars, Free Reclining Chair Cars and high back seat passenger coaches.

The 7:00 a. m. train will have parlor cars, dining cars and high back seat passenger coaches.

The Dining Cars on day trains will serve meals a la carte—you pay only for what you get.

All trains will leave from and arrive in the Seventh Street Union Depot, Louisville, arriving at and departing from the magnificent new Union Station, St. Louis.

In purchasing your tickets to St. Louis or to points west, ask the agent for tickets via Louisville and Henderson Route. He will have them in stock and will be glad to ticket you that way.

You will be satisfied in every respect with the accommodation and safe train service that is offered by this line, which has been termed the Official Route for Kentuckians.

\$1.25

Cincinnati and Return

—VIA—

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SUNDAY, JULY 3

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The Scenic Route

The Frisco System now offers traveling public excellent service and fast time—

Between St. Louis and Kansas City and points in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Texas and the Southwest.

Between Kansas City and points in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and the Southeast. Between Birmingham and Memphis and points in Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Texas and the West and Southwest.

Full information as to route and rates cheerfully furnished upon application to any representative of the Company, or to

Passenger Traffic Department, Commercial Building, Saint Louis.

'TIS THE "COMFORT LINE."

Free Reclining Chair Cars

Henderson Route

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WEST AND

SOUTHWEST

As we are the Originators of Free Reclining Chair Car Service Between Louisville and St. Louis, Don't you think it would pay you, in traveling, to "Get the Henderson Route Habit"—it will us.

ASK ABOUT IT

L. J. IRWIN, GEO. L. GARRETT, Gen'l. Pass. Agt. Trav. Pass. Agt. LOUISVILLE, KY.

WANTS MY VIEWS

Troy, Pa., June 22, 1904.

Mr. Charles C. Moore:

Dear Sir—Please give me your views on the enclosed article. Wishing you health and happiness. I remain yours,

T. ROTHWELL.

The article is from the Philadelphia North American, and is signed James Polk, Merchantsville, N. J. It is not necessary to reprint it in full, so that I will merely reprint its salient points. The opening paragraph is as follows:

"For eighteen hundred years men have been predicting the early demise of Christianity. Voltaire said that the system of religion would be practically extinct within a century. On the other hand, where he made this statement, 2,000,000 Bibles are now printed annually. In the North American of last Sunday Mr. Dauntless refers to the Christian religion as 'slowly but surely to its decline.' Does he not know the membership of that church is at its greatest, has not ceased to increase and the progress of missionary effort in heathen lands has been almost phenomenal?"

It is not possible that for eighteen hundred years men have been predicting the early demise of Christianity, because there was no such thing as Christianity until Constantine started it in the fourth century and there was, after that, a period of an unbroken thousand years when Christianity had supreme control of Europe, the period known, therefore, as the 'dark ages,' and when so far from appearing to be in the process of its early demise, such a prediction would have been perfectly unreasonable and the man who made the prediction would have been burned at the stake by the Christians.

The Christian system of religion is practically extinct to-day. No intelligent people believe that Christianity is true, and it is now merely kept up as a means of making money and as a political influence.

The story about 2,000,000 of Bibles being annually printed on the spot where Voltaire said that, I think is also told about some place in New York City where Paine said something, and I think lately read in an infidel paper that the body of Paine had been recovered, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there is nothing more so readily as one of them.

I think "I really appear that Mr. Polk's positive assertions are merely assertions, unsupported by evidence. Another extract from Mr. Polk is as follows: "Are the scriptures inspired? Drop the half-truth. Let one test be applied. Stretching through a period of more than two thousand years, Old Testament prophecies, foretold of a coming Christ. In every book the prophecies are found. It is foretold of what parentage He should come, the time He should be born, in which town the nativity should be, under what conditions, in a short tale. I made sure I would see your comment, but I guess you were too busy feeding your hopes or trimming your whiskers and hair, as it was about 'sheep shearing time.' Some time ago L. S. Welch sent me a clipping from the 'Firm Foundation,' and told me to send it to you, and ask you to comment on it, but, just as I was getting ready to send it I got the Blade and saw your comment on the Rev. U. G. Wilkinson, which was good enough for me.

Now I want to say that Rev. Wilkinson is my neighbor and has had two debates with L. S. Welch of Sweetwater, Okla., in which I was moderator. Let me say that Rev. Wilkinson has been met in debate every week he asked. We have had a good many debates here between Campbellite preachers and infidels. J. C. Rensburg of Atchison, Kans., and Rev. W. B. Johnson, of Indian Territory and L. S. Welch and Rev. William, and Wilkinson is the only man that is anything like fair in debate.

I consider Wilkinson the ablest of all the preachers, and the most honest of all, and Chism the most unfair and the weakest in argument of all the men I ever heard in debate. I think it would be a waste of time for you to meet Chism but an honor to meet Wilkinson. So if you and Wilkinson get up a fight I am going to try to be on hand, but I think you will have to come out here if you ever meet Wilkinson.

Would like to know how much it will cost us to get you out here. I think I can get up the money if it don't cost too much. I would like to hear from you. If you don't print this letter write me and let me know if you can come, how much it will cost, and when it will be to fulfillments of prophecy when he comes to examine the Old Testament in connection with them. Of course I could not take these prophecies one at a time and answer them here, (I have done so in my first book, "The Rational View") but I will give one example of these alleged fulfillments of prophecy.

In the New Testament, in speaking of Jesus in his infancy, it says—Matthew 2. 23—"And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth; that it might be fulfilled that was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."

You would suppose from this language in the New Testament that at least TWO of the prophets had used this language in the Old Testament, but no language of that kind is found either in any of the prophets or in any other part of the Old Testament. A fourth quotation from Mr. Polk is as follows:

"It is incredible that Christ's disciples would band themselves together to foist lies on mankind, but we are not dependent upon them to furnish proof of the salient facts in Christ's life. Profane writers, and the first two centuries do that, and these are supplemented by the Acts of Pilate, an ancient document, on file at Rome, and often quoted by the early writers. The evidences of the inspiration of the Bible found in the fulfillment of the prophecies relating to Christ have never been refuted. Skeptics prefer to discuss half-splitting details."

Why is it any more "incredible" that the band together to foist lies on mankind, than it is that the disciples of men before Christ and during his life and clear on to this day, should band together to foist lies upon mankind.

When I saw him, the two times, he said he was "very" enough to be a shining light in prohibition—didn't have to come to his end by poisoning. I have recently seen, and I think reprinted in the Blade, some preacher's account of having lately seen that mummy of James H. II. in the Cairo museum, and in answering the argument of the infidels that it's presence in that museum showed that he could not have been drowned in the Red Sea, the preacher stated that the body of Pharaoh had been recovered, but he did not doubt that the body in the museum was the body of James H. II., who was drowned in the Red Sea.

Of course he was wrong in this explanation. The Bible says—Exodus 15. 27—"And the waters returned and covered the chariot and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them."

Long and full accounts of the finding of that mummy of James H. II. were given in our finest magazines, and there was much discussion as to how it could be possible that he was drowned in the Red Sea, and then found and exhibited at Chicago, but so far as I can recall no scientist or archaeologist doubted the genuineness of the mummy, alleged to be that of James H. II.

Last year in the museum of antiquities, at Cairo, Egypt, I saw among many famous mummies, the one said to be that of James H. II., and recognized it as the same that I had seen at Chicago. The most learned Egyptologist in the world, an American, at that museum, as guides, in Cairo, and they told our party, including nineteen clergymen, Catholic and Protestant, that the body of Pharaoh had been recovered, but he did not doubt that the body in the museum was the body of James H. II., who was drowned in the Red Sea, and I did not hear from the clergymen, or from any one else, any dissent to their statement.

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will have to combine and pool their resources to meet the attacks that infidelity is making upon religion. This is simply a piece of business management like the trusts and big corporations are practicing, and is a scheme on the part of the big and influential preachers to crowd out the small fry of their profession so the big ones can get more money. In their game they would lose to infidelity as a great part of the influence of the church now—probably the greatest part—is attributable to the envy and jealousy and rivalry of the sects, and that immense force would of course, all be lost if they were to consolidate. The small preachers thus ousted, should the scheme materialize, would in many instances, join the infidels to help beat the big preachers. These proposed combinationists get the one from the supposed solidity of the Catholic church and the immense influence the Catholics are having because of their unification. But the fact is that the whole Roman Catholic church, that is familiar to the people of America, is only an offshoot from the Greek Catholic church, and really the mother of the Christian religion, and the books of the New Testament having been given us in Greek. It would be just as impossible for all the Protestant denominations to join in one body as it now is to get all the people of this country into one political body. Greed and ambition and hate would all conspire, in religion, just as in politics, to make separate and conflicting rival organizations of Protestant religionists, just as it now does of politicians. For a long time the Protestants have not been able to see that infidels did not regard them as of importance because in their journey of each other they furthered the cause of infidelity and Protestants have noticed that while all American Journalism refers to the Catholics, it pays no attention to any one sect of Protestants, and really the Catholics who are really only one sect of Christians, stand as the equals, at least, of all the combined sects of Protestants. There is nothing but "Hobson's choice" left for Christians. If the power of Roman Catholicism in this country becomes so great as to dominate in politics, a majority of the Protestants will tramp over each other in their stampede to get into the ranks of infidelity, and infidelity with this immense recruit from Protestantism would soon crush out Christianity. If the Protestants could combine they would simply present a solid front to the onslaught of Roman Catholicism in this country, and infidelity would form a balance of power that would capture the country while the two great Christian hosts were fighting over the bone. Religion is not a truly merely a financial scheme—a means of making livings without labor by the leaders—as any of the other great economic of political schemes and seeing the business success of trusts it is

REV. U. G. WILKINSON

WRITES A LETTER AND CONTINUES OUR DISCUSSION.

Comanche, I. T., June 16, 1904.
Dr. Chas. C. Moore, Lexington, Ky.:
Dear Sir—A copy of your paper containing a part of my article and your comments was handed me by a friend, and also sent me by Mr. Kelley. It is only half of my article the rest of which is in the next issue of the Firm Foundation. I will procure the other paper and send you if you have not already received it, as soon as I can. It was my intention to send you these papers as soon as I could secure copies of them. I send herewith a review of your comments which I trust you will publish with such comments as you desire.
I do not see how I can possibly come to Lexington to debate with you and I would not do so unless my brethren there desired it, but you have infidel friends in the Indian Territory who would gladly pay you to come to this country and meet me in discussion, and if you desire it, we can, I think easily arrange a time and place for a discussion here. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to come there and debate with you, and everything was favorable. It may be if it is, you can count on me. Write me the situation there in a private letter. I send you copy of the Gospel Searchlight of which I am one of the editors and hope it will suit you to exchange with us. Yours truly,
U. G. WILKINSON.

IS THERE A GOD?

Editor Moore of the Blue Grass Blade, published at Lexington, Ky. instead of Louisville, as was mistakenly stated in our articles in a recent issue of the Firm Foundation, copies the first article of the series into his paper, gives lengthy comment on it and challenges me for a discussion at Lexington, Ky. My article appears to have been clipped and sent him by J. J. Kelly of Waxahatchee, Texas, an infidel and an admirer of his. Being space in the Firm Foundation, and also in the Blade I shall make a formal reply to his comments.

First, he thinks I should have known that Lexington and not Louisville is in the Blue Grass region. Possibly I should, but not having ever been in Kentucky I was ignorant of this line. As to the Firm Foundation being a Christian sheet of the deepest dye I hope it is. Whether Christians expect to be spoken of reverently or not, it is clear that they are not by such infidels as the Blade who makes it a life business to hunt up all the preachers that are guilty of crimes and of course to that extent infidels, (and no one denies that there are such who are worse than infidels), and make them to the world as much as possible. Well, perhaps in this he does the world a service by exposing hypocrisies.

He seems to think I should have made a formal reply to the articles in his paper, and says that he thinks I was not limited in space. Well, I don't know as to that. The F. F. was kind enough to publish my article in full which required two issues, and for which I am indebted to them, but they are not under obligations to furnish me space, either limited or unlimited. Their space is valuable and they have the right to use it in any way they choose and could deny me if they so chose. He thinks I should defend attacks on my religion. That depends on circumstances. We would not think it necessary to defend the moon against the attacks of a barking dog, though he should speak each night in laying at her silver face smiling down from the pearly vault of heaven, for we could not see that she was suffering any harm or inconvenience from his unprovoked warrants. Attacks on the Bible and religion. While they really do sometimes and the Bible no harm, yet sometimes by defending them we are afforded an opportunity to teach which is one of the commands of our Lord.

He thinks if the question is incomprehensible we should not teach it at all as it could not be understood. But it is understood as far as it is revealed, and this is as far as revelation teaches. Only so far as revelation teaches.

He denies that he disposes of this great question in a lofty manner as I accuse him, but I insist that he does. Certainly a man who with one sweep of the pen says the existence of a God is unsupported by proof, is rather lofty in his assertions, since the master minds of the earth of all ages, have accepted it as fully proven, most of them considering it as incontrovertibly so. Even Yon Yon, whose memory is so much revered by Mr. Moore, is as positive as the Psalmist

himself that it is the fool who has said there is no God, he claiming that the existence of God is abundantly proven by nature itself and so stating in his Age of Reason, as the Psalmist claims it is proven, by revelation. Simon Greenleaf, the greatest authority on legal evidence of modern times, perhaps of all times, says the testimony is altogether sufficient and meets with every legal requirement. In fact, it is incontrovertible. It was this array of authority in my favor that caused me to say that he dismissed the subject in such a lofty manner and also to state that it was so fully proven that the burden was shifted to his shoulders to disprove it. Certainly he who holds the affirmative has the burden of proof. This is a legal proposition. But when he has made his case, plain facts which has been done in this case, and even more than the burden is shifted to him who denies. This was all that was claimed by me.

Next as to his challenge to a discussion, I will state that I will discuss the question as to whether or not I affirm There is a God. He to deny. Second he to affirm the Bible to be a tissue of errors which I deny. But the time and place is another matter. I do not know whether a debate could be profitable, where the people would want it, and of course they are the judges not I. I think I could find places in the Indian Territory where the debate could be profitable, both infidel and Christian. If he desires a discussion of that kind we can arrange for it without trouble. I am ready also to meet him at Lexington in direct challenges as such as to justify it which I rather doubt. As to my endorsements I will say that I can furnish all that would be asked for from the leading preachers and even infidels of the Southwest with whom I have had discussions. I think I can furnish as good as Mr. Moore. Would like to have his too.

He says the Bible teaches that there are witches which I deny, except so far as conjurers, etc., may be regarded as witches. He says the Bible says the world is flat. It neither says nor infers such a thing and he who so states only exposes his own ignorance.

He asks if the existence of a God is fully proven, why are thousands of dollars and preachers paid millions of dollars to teach what is already proven. I may ask why, if the world is round and three angles of a right angle are equal to two-right angles are already proven why are so many millions spent annually in teaching these things to the world? Why is it that we must continually teach to our children and to all the world the demonstrable facts of the universe? Why has there been a thousand men who believe in the existence of a God to where there is one who believes the world is round. Man is a teachable being. He knows nothing except it be taught. And if man possesses any inherent knowledge, something that he did not learn, it is religious knowledge. Religion is the remnant element in man's nature. But we must be brief.

As to Dr. Wetzel's not being a doctor at all, I beg pardon, but as I have not his article by me at present I cannot verify it, but I surely did not mistake him. And as to friend Moore being a doctor of divinity, I also beg pardon for having addressed him as plain Editor Moore. Will try in future to use the proper decorum towards him.

His reference to my name as Ulysses Grant is a mistake, for I certainly was named for the great hero of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge and Appomattox, if I do live South of Mason and Dixon's line.

I cannot agree with that intelligence comes from large cities, for Chicago or New York has never produced a Lincoln, Webster, Clay, Grant or Lee. It seems that genius seems to be born in such places and usually chooses the poor man's place or the hovel.

I did not challenge any one East of the Mississippi, but here and now say that I will meet with any representative infidel in discussion of proper questions at any proper time and place and will furnish proper credentials of my character.

He seems to think his rank is higher than mine. Possibly so. Dr. Moore loves to boast of his ability and to belittle others. Well, whether great or small, he will not find me lagging or showing the white feather when he places himself in the proper position. His reference to Darwin and Aristotle's reputation notwithstanding, I have picked up in some of their foolish theories of evolution of species and intelligent action of atoms, two theories which contradict each other, and hence both cannot be right. But I might retort by saying that the reputation of Moses, Job, Jesus and Paul are not likely to suffer from the unjust attacks of the unknown Moore (excuse me as I should have said Rev. Charles C.

Moore, D. D.), but none of this is argument and has nothing whatever to do with the existence of a God. And in conclusion, I will say that if I ever have the pleasure of meeting Dr. Moore in discussion, a pleasure the realization of which I shall look forward to with great anticipation, he will have to use arguments as he will discover, instead of his illogical, denigratory and lofty style with which he disposes of questions of such moment as make the ages wonder and "make a bashful look," as though

"He from above descending stooped to touch
The loftiest thought and proudly stooped as though
It scarce deserved his verse."

He will be called upon to meet odd facts, unorthodox things, and crushing the hope of meeting him some day.
U. G. WILKINSON.
Comanche, Indian Territory.

Answer—If a Christian who is guilty of a crime is an infidel who is guilty of a crime must be a Christian. Bad rule that won't work both ways!

If you will send me any printed extracts from newspapers telling me of anything good that preachers have done and anything bad that infidels have done I will print them. I never print anything against preachers except what I find printed in papers. I spend very little time reading newspapers. I find some of these accounts of the evil doings of priests and preachers, and people from all over the United States send me some.

I personally know some that have never been printed and I don't print them. I think "exposing hypocrites" is just as good as commending good people. The allusion to the moon and the cur is threadbare, inelegant and unkind.

I do not believe there is any God and do not see any "attack" in his saying so. The first thing in the nature of an "attack" that has occurred between you and me was when in the "Firm Foundation" you said I was a fool for not believing in a God.

If your Bible is true you are liable to get roasted for that. "But whose ever shall say Thou fool shalt be in danger of hell fire."—Mat. v. 22.

You say "the master minds of the earth of all ages have accepted" the existence of a God as fully proven, most of them considering it incontrovertibly so."

Expressions like that are the main gist of preachers. Of course you can not know that to be true, but a big speech and sounder are so many well, and those who do not know any better and who think preachers know it all, swallow it as being incontrovertible. If you knew absolutely all the history of the world that has ever been written, you could not possibly know that to be true, because what the master minds of all the earth, or any other kinds of minds, in all ages, thought has never been written and never will be written as history goes a great part of the human race has believed in a god or in many gods, but certainly there have been atheists who were master minds, and the clergy, to-day, when earnings is increasing, encourage the people to give their money for Christianity by telling them that atheism is increasing. You frequently see this in the sermons of prominent preachers in the newspapers.

Today India, with 750,000,000 inhabitants and with the greatest infidel religion on the earth, a religion that loves and plagues animals more than Christianity does men, does not believe in the existence of a God, and the Japanese, now crushing Christian Russia purely by intellectual superiority, are atheists.

Carnegie, the greatest giver of money to laudable purposes that ever lived has lately announced himself an atheist, and Edison the greatest inventor that ever lived is an infidel but I do not know that he is an atheist.

The Greeks were, in their halcyon days, the greatest thinkers of the world. They believed in a great many gods and goddesses, but they killed Socrates, the greatest of all of them, because he did not believe in any god, and the Greeks degenerated from the greatest nation of the earth to one of the lowest nations when they came to believe in the Christian god.

The Egyptians, at the time they were the leaders of the learning of the earth, worshipped a god and his wife Isis and Osiris and also worshipped the Nile, bulls, crocodiles, onions and scarabs, a beetle three-fourths of an inch long, that I have picked up in the desert of Sahara, the life of which is as near a miracle as anything I know of.

The Jews and Mohammedans worship one god. The Christians all except the Campbellites worship three gods—the father, god the son and god the holy ghost.

The Campbellites worship two gods—the father and god the son.

They do not believe the holy ghost is a god.

So your statement that all the master minds of all nations and ages believe in "a God" with a big G, is mere wind jamming.

But even if all people are granted to believe in "a God," that has no bearing, whatever, on the issue between you and me.

You have seen one of my atheistic papers, and you have volunteered to say in one of your religious papers that I am a fool because I do not believe in "a God," and you said you wanted to get into an oral debate with me to prove to me that there was a God and now when I gladly accepted your challenge, you think it very doubtful if you can orally debate with me, and I can tell you plainly that your Lexington preaching brethren will not let you debate with me in Lexington, because they know it would be disastrous to your religion. You proposed to prove that there was a God, and your saying what other people and especially those of other ages and countries, think about it, does not amount to any evidence that would be taken in any court in America.

My arrogance and "lofty manner do not at all bear upon the question, and you appear to be desecrating upon those because you have no evidence of the existence of a God that you can offer.

Yes, Tom Paine believed, very earnestly, in the existence of a God, but your brother Roosevelt says he was "a filthy little atheist."

Shows that "Doctors will differ." Greenleaf believed in the existence of a God, and Blackstone believed in the existence of witches, and you, the Bible as his authority, wrote three chapters against witches, saying they should be killed, that caused Christians in England and America to kill many ugly old women for witches.

But your asserting that Greenleaf believes in a God does not prove there is any god any more than Blackstone's belief in witches proves that there are witches.

Certainly any man with a more thorough appreciation of logic, can understand the utter untenability of your position that I must assume the affirmative and prove that there is no God just as you assume the affirmative and prove there are no witches, and if you had insisted that I should prove this negative, that would, just at once, have been an end of the matter, for this is, essentially, impossible. And you, afterward, justly and intelligently, say you will "affirm there is a God," and say, properly, that it is only my province to "deny," and this is what I am ready, at any time, to do in Lexington, the greatest stronghold in the world of your particular religious sect, and where you can easiest find all the charges against my character, or you can read my book "Behind the Bar," that I wrote the penitentiary, that gives them to you in full.

Please allude to the fact that I have been in the penitentiary occasionally, in your papers; it helps to sell my books.

The absurdity of my coming to the Indian Territory to debate with you, I being a farmer right as I write this, hurrying to get to work in the cornfield, and too unreasonable for serious consideration.

I want to meet you in oral debate in Lexington and in my own home and at my own house, in the country. Your antecedents amount to nothing but a long list of lies.

I don't care even if you are a horse thief, so you don't steal one of my mules.

If you want to know further about me write to J. D. Shaw, Waco, Tex., who is also editor of the "Centralist." You deny that the Bible says there are witches. I give as an instance of my authority I Samuel xxviii. 7-11. In my Bible the heading is "Saul consulted a witch at Endor."

The Bible says the world is flat by speaking of the corners of the earth, and of the pillars on which it stood, and of heaven as being upward and hell being downward, and so thoroughly did the whole Christia world understand from the Bible that the earth was flat, that they imprisoned the infidel Galileo, and burned at the stake the infidel Bruno because they said the world was round and thus contradicted the Bible. There is not in the whole Bible a single intimation that the world is round and many teachings that it is flat.

If you further deny this statement, I will print from the Bible the whole list of texts that say the earth is flat, and I will challenge you to produce one that says it is round.

We teach to children that the world is round. The three angles of a triangle are equal to two right angles but we do not teach those to grown people.

The church teaches, at a cost of millions of dollars annually, to grown

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H. I. McGUIRE, D. P. A., HOWARD JOLLY, T. P. A.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO.

people, that there is "a God," and quotes David "the Psalmist," one of the biggest villains that ever lived, as their highest authority for saying it.

If you come to Lexington, and want to get along with your leading brethren here, you had better not let them know you are named for Grant.

Your point that the greatest men of the world were born in the country is well taken, and yet I think it is generally admitted that Boston, New York, and London, have more intelligence than Texas, for instance.

I think the reputation of Aristotle and Darwin are growing greater all the time, while those of Moses, Job, Jesus and Paul are growing less.

But these amount to nothing. Stick to your one affirmation that "there is a God," and I will try to answer your arguments.

TAFIT'S DINNER TO CARDINAL SATOLLI.

Washington—A notable dinner, in honor of Cardinal Satolli, was given last night by Secretary of War Taft at the Arlington Hotel. There were 15 other guests, prominent in church and State. Secretary Taft paid a high tribute to the Cardinal's influence in the settlement of the friar question in the Philippines. The Cardinal said:

"I desire here to bear testimony that I heard from the immortal Pius the IX, himself, that he was most highly pleased with the mission of Mr. Taft, and with the results obtained through it. The story of that mission, the Holy See and the Catholic Church, and in it the name of Mr. Taft will be handed down to the memory of posterity."

The above is one of the many evidences that the Catholic Church is enjoying the patronage of the United States government as no other sect of Christians is doing.

We certainly have other religious sects in this country that rank as high in intelligence and morality as the Catholics do. In fact it is indisputable that the Catholics, as a class, are far inferior, educationally and intellectually, to the Protestants; and yet if the United States government should recognize a representative of the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Mormon, or any other Protestant church as it does this representative of Roman Catholicism, and have that representative of one of the other sects speak of its leading man as "immortal" and "holy," there would be one solid head coming from all the other sects, including the Catholics.

But this religious arrogance can be exercised by the Catholics and no Protestant sect, or any pupil or any press representing Protestantism, dares to open its head in protest, because all sects are working to get the Catholic vote and all Protestant religionists are willing to pull down this insult to their religion, rather than say anything that may prejudice Catholics against their respective political parties.

All of this is, I think, in the ultimate interest of infidelity.

"Rome or Reason" is the slogan that will finally determine the religious destiny of this country.

I believe that, for a while at least, Rome will triumph, but there will be a reaction. Protestants will be forced to recognize the absurdity of allowing a religious sect, that has been kicked out of the European countries where it has been tried, to come to this government, built upon a foundation of no religious discrimination, and run this government on the religious principles which, when in power, brought a thousand years of darkness over all of Europe.